GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:405
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
STRIKE BY SBI EMPLOYEES
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the State Bank of India went on indefinite strike in the month of April, 2006

(b) if so, the main demands of the employees alongwith the demands accepted by the Government;

(c) the total loss suffered by the Government on account of strike during the said period;

(d) whether any mechanism has been evolved by the Government to avoid such strikes in future in order to settle grievances of the employees amicably and to give relief to the people from the hardships caused due to such strikes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM)

(a), (b), (c), (d) &(e)> A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question NO,405 due for answer o12,5.2006 regarding Strike by SBI Employees.

(a)Yes Sir. The employees of State Bank of India were on strike from 3.4.2006 to 9.4.2006.

(b) The main demands of the employees were as under:

(i) The pension ceiling needs a comprehensive review to provide for 50% of the last pay drawn.

(ii) Commutation on par with the industry-level.

(iii) index linked DA as available in the industry.

(iv) Family Pension as available in the industry..
As per the agreement reached en 9.4.2006, the revised pension payable would be @ 50% of the last average pensionable pay upto Rs 21040/- + Professional Qualification Pay (PQP), if any and @ 40% of the average pensionable pay, above thereof.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the financial loss, if any, to the Government due to the strike.

(d & e) A negotiating Machinery is in existence for conffict Resolution with officers and workman Staff Federations/Associations/Unions at various levels. The meetings are held by the Management with Unions/Associations with the objective to discuss and ` negotiate important/emergent issues concerning the Management and/or the Federation. In the event of a strike notice being received by the Government, instructions issued by the Banking Division to Public Sector Banks(PSBs) for taking pre-emptive %teps for smooth functioning of branches/offices are invariably reiterated. Such steps interalla include, approaching local administration/police authorities for ail necessary help in keeping branches open and avoiding disruptions, etc. as also, taking appropriate action against the erring employees. Further Banks have now been advised to take appropriate steps for putting in place a suitable contingency plan to deal with the eventuality of a strike, in future.